special Central Assistance of Rs. 770 crores to that State for the financial year 1998-99 in view of State's share of expenditure on the economic restructuring project approved by World Bank; and

(b) if so, by when the assistance will be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Planning Commission could not accede to the request of the State government for Special Central Assistance. However, in approved scheme of financing of the Annual Plan 1998-99 of the State, the Commission has provided an additional amount of Rs. 400 crore under Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)-based Net market Borrowing as matching share for implementation of Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring Programme. The release of this amount will be contingent upon absorption of World Bank aid by the State.

Conversion of Telephone Exchanges into Electronic Exchanges in Gujarat

*74. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all telephone exchanges in Gujarat will be converted into electronic exchanges by the year 1999 as per announcement made by MTNL;

(b) if so, the details of exchanges so far converted;

(c) whether the remaining exchanges will be converted by the end of 1999; and

(d) the details of funds i far incurred out of the fund sane ed for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Yes, Sir. As per DOT policy all Telephone Exchanges in Gujarat will be converted into Electronic by 1999.

(b) 46500 lines of X-Bar Electro-Mechanical Exchanges has so far been converted into Electronic Exchanges during 1998-99 till 31-10-98 is as per details given below:—

	10000
Navrangpura-II	4500
Jamalpur	10000
Vasna-I	8000
Junagarh	7000
Surcndranagar	7000
Vapi (Valsad)	

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) There is no separate fund sanctioned for this item. Expenditure incurred for replacement so far is approx. Rs. 28 Crores.

Revamping of Planning Commission

*75. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies yet to be filled in the membership of the Planning Commission;

(b) whether taking advantage of the present situation, Government would consider a drastic restructuring of the organisational pattern of the Commission; and

(c) if so, whether the advice of the Inter-State Council would be sought in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Planning Commission exists as per Government of India Resolution